

Claims

1. A capsular equatorial ring (5) which, after the removal of a natural lens, can be implanted in the opened capsular bag (3) of an eye and, when implanted, rests with its outer periphery against the inside of the capsular bag (3), essentially on the equator thereof, and radially stabilizes the capsular bag (3), characterized in that the capsular equatorial ring (5) is closed and has a number of foldable and/or creasable segments (7) and stiff segments (6) that are arranged alternately in the peripheral direction.
2. The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the capsular equatorial ring (5) has 16 peripheral segments (6, 7).
3. The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the peripheral segments (6, 7) are designed alternately as stiff PMMA segments (6) (polymethyl methacrylate) and HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) (hydroxyethyl methacrylate-co-methyl methacrylate).
4. The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the PMMA segments (6) taper radially toward the segment center at least from the inside.
5. The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the PMMA segments (6) taper in the axial direction of the ring (5) toward the segment center.
6. The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in one of claims 3 through 5, characterized in that the

HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) taper radially toward the segment center from the inside.

- 5        7.    The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in one of claims 3 through 6, characterized in that the HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) have an approximately 28% water content.
- 10      8.    The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in one of claims 3 through 7, characterized in that a radial thickness of the PMMA segments (6) in the segment center is approximately 0.2 mm.
- 15      9.    The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in one of claims 3 through 8, characterized in that an axial width of the outer periphery of the capsular equatorial ring (5) is approximately 0.7 mm, the PMMA segments (6) being approximately 0.5 mm wide in the segment center, and the HEMA/MMA copolymer  
20           segments (7) being approximately 0.7 mm wide in the segment center.
- 25      10.   The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in one of claims 1 through 9, characterized in that the capsular equatorial ring (5) has a sharp-edged outer periphery adjoining its end faces, in particular a sharp-edged anterior and posterior configuration.
- 30      11.   The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in one of claims 3 through 10, characterized in that the HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) are impregnated with a medicament.
- 35      12.   The capsular equatorial ring (5) which, after the removal of a natural lens, can be implanted in the opened capsular bag (3) of an eye and, when implanted, rests with its outer periphery against the inside of the capsular bag (3), essentially on

5 the equator thereof, and radially stabilizes the capsular bag (3), in particular as claimed in one of claims 1 through 10, characterized in that the capsular equatorial ring (5) is comprised, at least in part, of water-absorbable material, in particular HEMA/MMA copolymer (hydroxyethyl methacrylate-co-methyl methacrylate) and is impregnated with an aqueous or water-soluble medicament.